

**HANDBOOK OF SURGERY.** By Eric C. Mekie, M.B., F.R.C.S. Ed. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone, 1936. pp. 699, figs. 24. Price 12s. 6d. net.

This book is based on lecture notes prepared for the final examination in surgery by Mr. Eric C. Mekie, and is presented in such a manner to make a special appeal to students for revision purposes.

Mr. Mekie has succeeded in covering the large field of surgery in a comparatively small amount of space, and yet the book is not surrendered to conciseness. Explanatory notes are included where necessary, which makes for easy reading and understanding.

Among many other excellent features is the inclusion of notes on lymphatic drainage and anatomical points which are necessary for the full understanding of the subject.

In the chapter on the surgery of the thyroid gland, no mention is made of post-operative treatment. When one considers the condition of these patients before operation, no imagination is required to know that only the most intense and careful treatment will be successful in carrying the patient through this dangerous period. The alternate injections, two-hourly, of intravenous digitalin and colossal iodine have more than once proved invaluable.

Anæsthesia is dealt with in each chapter, special indications being given.

It can be confidently recommended to every medical student, who will find how valuable it is to possess a book which is accurate in its presentation, inclusive in its detail, and yet sufficiently concise to be appreciated and digested within a reasonable period of time.

**THE MINOR MEDICINE OF GENERAL PRACTICE.** By L. V. Snowman, M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P. London : John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., 1936. pp. 104. Price 2s. 6d. net.

The average student on graduation soon finds that the course of medicine which has obtained for him his degree leaves many gaps in his knowledge. The experiences of his first "locum" show him that few of his patients suffer from the fully developed diseases of hospital wards, and that his patients mostly suffer from minor ailments, of which little or no thought was given by his teachers. Dr. Snowman, in his little book on "Minor Medicine," apparently realizes this point, and any young man who reads it before entering on practice will bless his name. Sore throats, colds, sciatica, constipation, hiccough, flatulence, headache, and that *bête noire* of the practitioner, bilious attacks, are all discussed in an eminently sane manner, and simple remedies suggested. A point of importance in this little book is the emphasis laid on the fact that these minor disorders may possibly be the early manifestations of major disease. This is an aspect of practice that the busy practitioner may tend to overlook, and it is a happy thought that Dr. Snowman has so clearly brought this point out. This book can be strongly recommended to the attention of newly qualified medical men, and its study will save them many an unhappy hour in wondering how to treat many a patient suffering from minor disorder.

**Baillière's SYNTHETIC ANATOMY.** By J. E. Cheesman. London : Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1936. Complete in fourteen parts. Price 3s. per part.

This remarkable publication deserves the success which it undoubtedly will have among students preparing for the second professional examination. It will enable them, literally, to take the dissecting-room into the privacy of their own study, and give them a visual conception of anatomy. This will enable them to reconstruct in the examination hall the structure and relations of the different parts of the body in such a way as to give intelligent answers to the questions set, rather than the mere recitation of facts committed to memory. It is excellently produced, the drawings are astonishingly accurate in detail, and the work can be recommended with every confidence.